

Dear Members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

My name is Deicin Garcia, I am 32 years old and I have lived in the United States for 19 years. I am a member of Hartford Deportation Defense. I have 2 beautiful daughters and a marriage of approximately 16 years. Today my testimony is related to a request for health insurance for my community. I support **HB 6616: An Act Relating to the Expansion of HUSKY Health Benefits for Persons Ineligible Due to Immigration Status**.

A few months ago a relative developed facial paralysis due to supposed stress. After taking him to the emergency ward, the doctor did not recommend follow-up with a specialist. Since my family member did not have health insurance, I took him to a mobile clinic where they offered him the COVID vaccines and continually told him that the follow-up due to paralysis had to be done at another clinic. We continually called another clinic where they gave us a 2-month waiting appointment for the discount scale program, and then continue with the follow-up appointment for the paralysis.

Unfortunately, we did not make it to the appointment as my family member died of a heart attack. After this loss, more things have happened to us, because not only have the expenses for the funeral, but it has also affected all of my family since my husband had to go to Mexico and I had to stay alone with my daughters. All of this has led to major depression and anxiety that is affecting not only me, but my entire family. I hope with all my heart that you can help us to obtain a medical insurance that can avoid us more problems like mine.

I support **HB 6616** and hope the committee votes to continue expanding HUSKY health insurance for our immigrant communities. Expanding to 26 is a big step but my brother in law was over 26. We all need access to this fundamental right, regardless of our age or immigration status.

Thanks for your time,

Deicin Garcia